

B⁵ ~~8.~~ (Amended) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to either claim ~~2~~ or claim ~~6~~.

~~10.~~ (Amended) An antisense polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide that is complementary to a polynucleotide according to any one of claims ~~2, 6, 7, 11,~~ and ~~50-52.~~ ^{1, 2, 3, 6, 8-10}

~~11.~~ (Amended) An isolated polynucleotide that detectably hybridizes to the complement of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 under conditions that include a wash in 0.1X SSC and 0.1% SDS at 50 °C for 15 minutes, wherein said isolated polynucleotide exhibits at least 80% nucleotide identity to the polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

B⁶ ~~12.~~ (Amended) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to any one of claims ~~10, 11~~ and ~~50-52.~~ ^{12, 11, 6, 8-10}

~~14.~~ (Amended) A method of producing a dual specificity phosphatase-4 (DSP-4) polypeptide, comprising the steps of:

- B⁷
- (a) culturing a host cell according to claim ~~9~~ ⁵ under conditions that permit expression of the DSP-4 polypeptide; and
 - (b) isolating DSP-4 polypeptide from the host cell culture.

~~22.~~ (Amended) A method for detecting dual specificity phosphatase-4 (DSP-4) expression in a sample, comprising:

- B⁸
- (a) contacting a sample with an antisense polynucleotide according to claim 10; and
 - (b) detecting in the sample an amount of DSP-4 polynucleotide that hybridizes to the antisense polynucleotide, and therefrom detecting DSP-4 expression in the sample.

Please add new claims 50-52 to read as follows: